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W. A. POYNTER FOR GOVERNOR

The Able Farmer of Boone County
Will Lead Reform Forces to
Victory in November.

UNION FINALLY SECURED

State Administration Indorsed
and Officials Renominated—
Resolutions Adopted.

The Story of an all Night Session.

Fusion and reform control Nebraska politics. Three great state conventions met in Lincoln at 2:30 o'clock on Tuesday, August 2, effecting their organization and appointing conference committees. Each convention met again at 7:30, agreed upon a union of forces, and after balloting all night nominated Hon. W. A. Poynter of Boone county, for Governor. The sun was shining over the eastern hills when the conventions adjourned for breakfast. They met again at 8 o'clock and renominated the present state officials with the exception of Lieutenant Governor Harris, who withdrew in favor of E. A. Gilbert, who was the choice of the silver republicans.

After a morning spent in lively canvassing and wire pulling, the three fusion party conventions began sessions about 2:30 in three different halls, the populists in the Oliver, the democrats in the Funks, and the silver republicans in the Windsor hotel.

Nothing was accomplished during the afternoon but the appointment of the conference committee. Much oratory was listened to in all conventions.

On reassembling in the evening the conference committee was ready to report. It was arranged that all conventions should ballot, and when any candidate should receive a majority of all conventions he should be named. In the populist convention it was announced that the head of the ticket was to be a populist, and that satisfactory state officials were to be renominated. This was not announced in the other conventions.

Informal balloting began after the report had been accepted in the three conventions.

THE DEMOCRATS.

The democrats were presided over by Judge Edgar Howard of Papillion, and O. W. Palm of Lincoln, secretary. Attorney General Smyth spoke some time on the record of state officials and on national issues.

The conference committee was named as follows: Travis of Cass, Gilchrist of Otoe, and R. L. Metcalf of Omaha.

A resolution committee was appointed. James Manahan spoke especially of the cleaning out of republicans at the state house.

Reference to Bryan in all the speeches were cheered and a telegram of congratulation was ordered sent.

In the evening the telegram to Bryan was read, a speech was made by Mr. Noland, and then the conference committee reported, and the report was accepted.

The platform was then adopted, a very long one.

It first greeted the soldiers and promised support to the president. Pride was expressed in Bryan and allegiance to Jefferson and Jackson. Restoration of the monetary system to that of before 1873 was demanded. Gold contracts were denounced. Free silver at 16 to 1 and full legal tender of all money were endorsed. Banks of issue and interest bearing bonds were denounced, the recent issue being declared unnecessary. The tariff and the Dingley bill were denounced. Income tax and liberal pensions were favored. Bonds of congressmen and senators were approved. Increase of supreme court judges was demanded, as also railroad commissioners elected by the people and redistricting of the state.

J. C. Dahman was made chairman of the state committee. Lee Herdman secretary, and C. S. Jones treasurer.

The first ballot for governor showed C. J. Smyth so far in the lead that he was given the unanimous vote. He had 439 votes.

When Poynter's nomination was announced the democrats changed to Edgar Howard for governor, but finally gave in and endorsed the nominee of the other two conventions. The present state officers were renominated with the exception of Lieutenant Governor Harris, who withdrew in order that the silver republicans might have representation on the ticket.

SILVER REPUBLICANS.

J. E. Hale presided over the silver republicans and Charles Wootter was chief secretary.

Peter of Lancaster, Carr of Douglas, and Edward of Platte were the committee to wait on the populists and Bennett of York, Lamb of Saunders, and Weaver of Richardson were the committee to go to the democrats.

When balloting was indulged in Edmisten led on the first formal ballot, Gregory having led on the informal. Neville led the third with ninety-four.

Representation on the state ticket was asked and conceded by the other two conventions and E. A. Gilbert for lieutenant governor was named. The entire ticket

was endorsed; resolutions passed commending the state administration; upholding the prosecution of the war for humanity's sake; reaffirming allegiance to the cause of free silver and the national party platform.

THE POPULISTS.

There was a wave of applause when Chairman Edmisten appeared after a long delay and rapped for order. Said he: "I have read in the State Journal that the people's party was dead. This great gathering speaks a different story. It says that the people's party is assembled to name the coming state officers. Upon our banner is written victory now. The secretary will read the call."

After reading by secretary Mart Howe the York Glee Club sang a song, "The Jolly Popocrats," arranged by Dr. B. F. Lang, of York. The song evoked great applause and recall for the singers.

Rev. Gibson, of Lexington, offered prayer. Next in order was the selection of a temporary chairman. M. F. Harrington, of Holt, named Wilbur F. Bryant, of Hartington; O. Hull, of Harlan, named W. L. Hand, of Buffalo county; Congressman Sutherland nominated Judge Adams, of Minden. The roll was ordered called.

The roll was very animated. It soon became a very close race between Adams and Bryant and the friends of each candidate cheered vigorously the roll as it disclosed gains for their favorite. Douglas and Lancaster the "big" counties, divided their vote as nearly equally as possible, and Madison (Senator Allen's home) split its vote into thirds. While the secretaries were footnoting the result, the York Glee Club was called and sang a song entitled "What Will a Pop Boy?" which was greeted with enthusiasm. The result was announced as follows:

Bryant..... 579
Adams..... 466
George Magney, of Omaha, and R. B. Shiek were appointed a committee to escort Mr. Bryant to the platform after Senator Allen had moved to make the nomination unanimous and the motion had carried.

Judge Bryant said: "The cause that summons you here is the cause of good government. The populist party has a divine mission. It stands for principles on which this government is founded. The populist party is not an anarchist party. It is not a socialist party (as that term is ordinarily used). It is the democracy of Andrew Jackson. It is the republicanism of the order of Abraham Lincoln. (Applause). This great convention has a work to do; what is its will?"

For temporary secretary Douglas county named J. J. Everingham. U. E. Foster, first assistant secretary of the last Nebraska house, was named. Also Warwick Saunders, of Platte; B. F. Allen, of Cass.

On motion of M. F. Harrington, of Holt, the first named was made secretary, and the remainder assistants.

Committee on credentials was dispensed with and the list of delegates as prepared by the secretary accepted.

On motion of Jay Burrows, the temporary organization was made permanent.

On motion, the following committee on resolutions was appointed by the chair, to whom all resolutions were ordered referred:

Ed. L. Adams, chairman.
Jay Burrows.
E. E. Thomas.
John H. Feiber.
W. H. Barnes.
M. F. Harrington.

A communication was received from the silver republicans that they had appointed a committee of three to confer with the populists.

John C. Sprecher, of Colfax, moved that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the silver republicans and the democrats. This was at once greeted with opposition.

A Douglas county delegate moved that the populists appoint a committee of nine, on the ground that the populists were more than equal to both democrats and silver republicans in number. The amendment was voted down overwhelmingly on a viva voce vote, and the original motion prevailed.

A gavel made by a twelve-year-old boy at the deal and dumb institute in Omaha was then presented to the chairman by James Whittaker, of Richardson. Improvements made at the institute by Professor Dawes were referred to.

A motion to accept the gavel and vote thanks to both the boy and Professor Dawes prevailed.

Judge Bryant asked for time to appoint the committee, and suggested music, but the convention had made up its mind to hear Senator Allen right then, and cheered until his appearance stifled the applause.

Senator Allen began with a rehearsal of the facts regarding the present Spanish war, praising the military and naval heroes who had won imperishable fame under the flag. He declared that the war was not a republican war, that its heroes were not republicans, and that the patriotism that prompted all parties to rally around the flag should not be turned to partisan account. He declared the war could not divert the attention of the people from the real economic questions which confronted the nation. The senator then proceeded to a thorough analysis of the present financial system as presented at Washington—the \$400,000,000 bond bill, the plans for retiring the greenbacks and substituting in their stead the notes of national banks, the scheme for using the new bonds as a basis for bank currency, and thereby making a permanent national debt. Senator Allen declared that in his judgment the populist party would demand that the Spanish flag should be banished not only from Cuba and Porto Rico, but from the Philippines, the Louisiana, the Carolina, and that every dollar spent by the United States in the war must be repaid by the Span-



WILLIAM A. POYNTER,

Peoples Independent candidate, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, in 1848. His father and mother were both from Kentucky and the former a disciple of Jacksonian democracy. The present candidate grew up on a farm, attending common school and from there going to Eureka college where he graduated in 1867. In 1869 he married Miss McCorkle. In 1879 he came west and homesteaded the farm he lives upon today in Boone county. He has worked with his own hands continuously upon the farm ever since and worked with his brains as well. Very soon after coming to this state he joined the old anti-monopoly movement, the forerunner of the alliance. He was elected to the 1885 legislature, being the only member of that body who was marked as "Independent" in political classification. In 1890 he was elected to the state senate and made president pro tem. of that body. In the stormy session of 1891 Poynter made a reputation as an earnest, effective anti-monopoly worker. In 1892 he was named to make the race for congress in the third district. The democrats nominated Dr. Keiper and the republicans George D. Melklohn. The district has strong democratic counties, but Poynter made a strong race and came second under the wire. In the campaign of 1896 after Maxwell had been named by all three silver parties the republicans knew that the fight for Ross Hammond was hopeless unless they could divide the vote. They sent a messenger to Poynter to offer \$1,500 if he would make the race. He promptly published the facts and no republican has dared deny them. Mr. Poynter was named by Gov. Holcomb as member of the Nebraska Exposition commission from the third district. He has been an active member of the state agricultural society and state dairyman's association and has always been interested in educational and reform work along all lines.

lard and with it payment for the loss of our warship Maine.

One of the strongest points made in Senator Allen's speech yet remains to be mentioned. It is this: The charters of the national banks of the United States expire in 1902. The next congress will be called upon to legislate whether the national banks shall continue or be supplanted by another currency system.

After Senator Allen the convention demanded "Greene" and would not be quieted until the familiar figure of the congressman from the Sixth district appeared. Greene was in his very best vein and kept the convention in roars of laughter while he related the troubles of his dear friends—the republicans in their campaign this year.

The chair announced as committee on conference John C. Sprecher of Colfax, E. O. Kreischer of Gage, and George Abbott of Richardson, and the convention took a recess for supper.

AFTER SUPPER.

The convention was in a happy mood after supper and nothing but York Glee Club would satisfy its demands. The club responded and sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Nebraska's Song to the Pops" with great effect.

The first thing due was the report of the conference committee. It was delayed. Meanwhile a committee from the silver republicans announced that they had adopted the report and a similar committee from the democrats announced that they likewise had adopted it. A vigorous demand went up from the floor that the conference report be produced and John C. Sprecher finally appeared with the type-written copy which he proceeded to read.

The conference report provided that it should require a majority vote in all three conventions to nominate any candidate, and that each of the conventions should ballot separately on each office, beginning with governor, until some one had a majority of all three, each convention reporting its vote to the other two. There was at first strong opposition to the adoption of the report. The populists had expected to have the governor assigned to them outright and the proposition to have the names submitted to all three conventions and require a majority of all three conventions to nominate was distasteful. The committee was sharply quizzed upon the subject. George Abbott finally allayed the kicking to some extent by one of his short characteristic speeches by saying that if the populists would treat the other parties right they would get just what they wanted. The conference report was adopted on a call of the roll by 908 yeas to 178 nays.

The chairman held that under the report adopted the convention should proceed to the nomination of governor. At this point there was a vigorous eruption in the Douglas county delegation caused by one of the quibblers which have characterized the delegations from Douglas in all parties for the past twenty years, and which are a mingled source of annoyance and amusement. Some of the Douglas county people wanted to make nominating speeches but the rest of the convention wouldn't have it that way and drove on. Douglas county cast eighty-one votes solid for John O. Yeiser pursuant to an agreement by which all

The committee on platform appeared and its chairman read the following report which was adopted:

THE PLATFORM.

"The People's Independent party of Nebraska, assembled in its ninth annual state convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the fathers of the republic and to the fundamental principles of just government as set forth in the Omaha and St. Louis platforms of our party. We stand upon every one of the grand truths therein enunciated, and specifically reiterate our loyalty to the free coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1.

"We pledge the people that there shall be no faltering on our part until private corporations are stripped of the privilege of issuing money and until all the currency, whether coin or paper, shall be issued directly by the government and shall be standard money of the United States.

"We condemn the attempt of the present administration to retire the greenback currency and to issue gold interest bearing bonds in place thereof, and we denounce such course as a change in the settled policy of the nation and a betrayal of the interests of the people.

"We denounce the usurpation of the federal courts in the issuance of writs of injunction by which the constitutional rights of freedom, of assembly and speech is denied American citizens.

"We declare that the money necessary to pay the expenses of the war could have been easily raised by judicious taxation, the coinage of seigniorage now lying idle in the treasury, the imposition of a just and reasonable income tax, and by the issuance of treasury notes, thus preventing an increase of the interest bearing obligations of the government; and we hold to the doctrine that the United States should pay off its obligations as speedily as possible. Government bonds should never be issued, except in case of the most extreme necessity and not then until congress has specifically declared the necessity thereof, and never at the mere behest of, or to afford means of investment for, the owners of idle capital.

"We condemn the republican party for refusing to retain in the war revenue bill provisions for the taxation of all monopolies and trusts, and for yielding to the demands of such organizations for impunity from taxation thus violating the law of equality and casting the burden of taxation upon those least able to bear it.

"We demand more money and less misery for the people. We protest against the retirement of the greenback and an increase in the interest-bearing debt of the nation as a step in the creation of a perpetual national debt and a permanent entrenchment of banks of issue, having power to expand and contract at will the circulating medium to the detriment of all the industrial interests of the country.

"We emphatically condemn the scheme of the secretary of the treasury that is embodied in a bill now pending in the house of representatives and favorably reported by the republican members of the committee on banking and currency, conniving at the retirement of the greenback, and making the silver coin in circulation redeemable in gold, thus greatly contracting the circulating medium, reducing the value of all forms of property except gold, and causing widespread distress and ruin.

"We are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war with Spain to the end that thereby an honorable peace may be the sooner secured.

"The policy to be pursued by the United States respecting foreign nations and peoples of the islands of the sea is one of great moment and far reaching in its consequences to present and future generations of our countrymen. It is of such magnitude that it should not be hastily determined, and in view of the probable close of the war with Spain at an early date, we affirm that the wise course for this government to pursue with respect to its relations with the islands lost to Spain during the war would be to postpone consideration thereof until the conclusion of the war, to be then taken up for mature deliberation by the people when no public excitement exists.

"The decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Nebraska maximum freight rate case makes it more apparent than ever that the only true solution of the railroad problem is to be found in government ownership and we again declare and reaffirm our allegiance to the doctrine of government ownership of railroads, telegraphs, and telephones. In the meantime we demand the enactment of a maximum rate law, granting the people all possible relief within the limits of said decision.

"The natural sea port markets for the Trans-Mississippi states are those of the Gulf of Mexico, and if the people of Nebraska and this entire western country could be provided with proper transportation facilities for marketing their products through those southern ports, it would save to the producers from 33-1/3 to 50 per cent—or even possibly more—on the present freight charges, making an aggregate saving to the people of this state of several millions of dollars annually. Therefore we declare that it would be a wise and judicious move on the part of Nebraska and her sister states to unite in providing ways and means for building, owning, and operating a system of transportation

lines north and south through the states from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern borders of the nation.

"We congratulate the people of Nebraska upon their prompt and patriotic response to the call of the president and of Governor Holcomb for volunteers, and we extend to our soldiers and sailors our hearty congratulations and best wishes, and affirm it to be our belief that all non-commissioned officers and private soldiers should have an increase of pay, more nearly commensurate with the gallant and valuable services they are now rendering the country; and not forgetting the soldiers and sailors of the late civil war to whom we again pledge our friendship and support.

"We declare that the rule of the administration prohibiting the application for an increase of pension or the reconsideration of a rejected claim for one year after such action should be speedily revoked. Such rule is unprecedented in the United States and is calculated to deny justice and to make more difficult the securing the pensions justly due.

"The distinguished services of Honorable William V. Allen have proven of incalculable benefit to the people of the state and nation and we recognize him as one of the ablest men in the populist party and in the republic. We heartily endorse his patriotic and statesmanlike course in the senate of the United States. In W. L. Stark, Samuel Maxwell, W. L. Greene, and R. D. Sutherland the common people of Nebraska have capable and trustworthy representatives in congress.

"We recommend the safe, sound, and sensible administration of Governor Holcomb and the other state officers, under which the credit of the state has been brought to a higher point than ever before; the patrimony of our school children has been doubled; the public money, as fast as collected, is being applied to the payment of the public debt; all the state institutions are being more economically administered than at any previous time in their history, and the different departments of government are being administered in an honest, careful, and business-like manner. We demand a reform in our system of assessment and taxation by the revision of our revenue laws, to the end that all forms of wealth shall bear their equitable and just proportion of the burdens of taxation.

"We demand the enactment of a law prohibiting the issuance of free railway passes to public officials and private citizens, except bona fide employees, or the acceptance of the same, and favor the furnishing by law of necessary traveling expenses to public officers when engaged in the transaction of public business.

"The People's Independent party from its birth has been the earnest friend of our free school system. We point with pride to its record, to the free text book law, to the school transportation law, to the increase in funds available to the common school, and to the liberal appropriations for the state university's work. We favor the practical industrial education that trains our boys and girls for earning an honest living in the mechanical and agricultural walks of life, and we pledge our nominees, if elected, to work for the promotion of this form of education in all the departments from the common schools to the state university. We condemn in unmeasured terms the attempt of organized capital to suppress the freedom of social and economic views, formed as a result of long study and careful investigation.

"In contradistinction to the splendid record of our populist officials, we point to the recreant acts of their republican predecessors who have robbed Nebraska of a million dollars; filled state institutions with corruption and scandal taken the patrimony of her school children and farmed it out to precinct "heelers" and small bore politicians; practiced nepotism in all branches of her state government, and when finally driven from a thirty years' feast at the public crib, sought the hand that had fed it and sought to injure the credit of the state by dismal forebodings.

"We heartily endorse the efforts of the publishers of the Reform Press association to take the control of the preparation of their ready prints out of the hands of the republicans.

"The initiative and referendum are cardinal principles of the populist party; by these principles the enactment or repeal of laws is left to the people themselves. The present constitution of this state makes it impossible for the people, by direct vote, to enact or repeal any law; we therefore favor the adoption of a constitutional

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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